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## Organized Labor in Politics.

It is now seen that the visit of the representatives of organized labor to Washington with a memorial complaining of the indifference of the Government and Congress to the interests of labor was preliminary to the issue of the circular letter enjoining the unions of America to use their political influence to obtain legislation desired by them. Their right to do so is incontestable. The method was outlined by the American Federation of Labor in an announcement to the press on March 23, as follows: "The American Federation of Labor's policy of interrogating candidates for public office upon questions affecting the interests of labor and of the people generally will be continued and more aggressively prosecuted." It is the plan of the Federation to obtain the cooperation of such organizations as the farmers' granges, the National Direct Legislation League and the People's Sovereignty League of America. Mr. GEORGE H. SHIBLEY, president of the last named organization, which quizzed candidates for Congress in the campaign of 1904 and obtained a great many written pledges, has explained that when the Federation referred to the interests of "the people generally" it promised a campaign "for the immediate establishment of a system whereby the voters in general may instruct by referendum vote." Candidates when forced to go on record, according to Mr. SHIBLEY, "pledged themselves almost invariably for the people's cause." He declares that twelve out of the sixteen Representatives elected in Missouri were enlisted by the Sovereignty League, and that 143 candidates for Congress throughout the country signed written pledges.

Yet the hundred or more officers of labor unions that visited Washington complained that Congress was lukewarm and that the Labor Committee had been packed against labor (organized). The explanation may be that the interests of "the people generally" are not always identical with the interests of the unions. Indeed, there is an impression abroad that the concern of organized labor for the people generally is never allowed to interfere with the interests of the unions. That may be natural and defensible and it may account for the failure of a busy Congress to give more of its time and attention to the demands of organized labor than to general legislation.

No good American will deny the right of an organized body of voters not in the employ of the Government to engage in political work for a legitimate object. By all means let the American Federation of Labor push its propaganda of electing sympathetic members of Congress. If it can vote every union labor man for a proposition or a candidate, well and good. It will not be able to do so without full and free discussion, that is certain. Hitherto the influence of organized labor in elections has not been as potent as the American Federation would have the country believe. The unions include men of all parties, and they vote very much as they please when they get the secret ballot into their hands. Especially is the proposal of Mr. Gompers to elect "intelligent, honest, earnest trade unionists" to be commended. The more intelligent the better for the general interest If the Federation is to go into politics methodically, why not put up organized labor candidates in every district, as they do in England? Then progress could be gauged, and union labor could hold its representatives responsible for their votes in Congress.

### The Triumph of the Liberals in the Russian Election.

It is already certain that the attempts of reactionaries and conservatives to control the popular branch of the forthcoming Russian Parliament will prove futile. In the city of Moscow on Monday of this week the Constitutional Democrats returned every one of the 160 electors by whom the Deputies 'to the national assembly will be chosen. That is to say, the old capital of Russia ranges itself by the side of St. Petersburg, where a similar victory was gained last week. Of all the fifty-one provinces in European Russia the conservatives have carried only the province of Tula and the province of Moscow, which must be carefully distinguished from the city of that name. In a word, the wildest hopes of Russian Liberals have been more than realized so far as success at the ballot box is concerned. Events again have worked in favor of Count WITTE, as they worked last October. is said to have made on Monday, that I Great White Plague." the Czar would choose once for all between himself and Mr. Dunnovo, the reactionary Minister of the Interior. It seems scarcely credible that in face of the lesson taught by the elections the TEMPORY NICHOLAS II. will venture to cast in his lot with DURNOVO, TREPOFF | mankind were aware of the fact that 90 been urging him to postpone indefinitely the meeting of the Parliament, fixed for May 10, or else to prorogue it immediately after it assembles.

There are those who think it unfortunate for the Russian Liberals that the St. Petersburg Government should have succeeded in obtaining a large loan in advance of the time announced for the

ers have agreed, it seems, to make a loan nominally aggregating \$460,000,000, which, however, as the bonds will be ssued at 85, will net Russia only about \$400,000,000. If all even of this latter sum were available the reactionists might be able to convince the Czar that a Parliament was superfluous. As a matter of fact, \$125,000,000 must be used to pay the short bonds recently put forth. The remaining \$275,000,000 will by no means suffice to cover the extraordinary expenses incurred in war, in famine relief and in the deficit in the current budget. As we have formerly pointed out, \$400,000,000 will be required for this purpose alone. After meeting pressing demands, therefore, there will be no surplus left in the hands of the Government, which consequently will have no motive for breaking its promise to introduce representative institutions. There seems to have been a good reason for making the loan now, instead of waiting, as was originally proposed, until all past and present loans should have been guaranteed by the national legislature. The French bankers and their coadjutors appear to have been convinced that unless Russia should

bankruptcy. The elections have brought not a few surprises. The return, indeed, of Professor Millukoff of St. Petersburg and Mr. PETRUNKEVITCH of Tver, one of whom is likely to be the Parliamentary leader of the Constitutional Democrats, might have been taken for granted. Unexpected, however, must have been the including of two Jews in the Progressive delegation chosen by the province of Grodno. The Jews have been even more successful in the province of Minsk, having elected four out of seven members of the national assembly. No doubt they will manage to secure a good many more representatives in the provinces included within the so-called Jewish pale. The behavior of the peasants must have been in a high degree disappointing to the reactionists. In almost every district they sent to the electoral college the most highly educated persons among their class. Especially was this the case in the Volga region and the central provinces, where famine and agrarian disorder have prevailed. In the border province of Ufa the Orenburg Cossacks, who have been supposed to be devoted to the autocracy, have returned a solid Progressive delegation, consisting of four Russians and six Mussulmans. In the province of Taurida (the Crimea) the peasants chose a Social Revolutionist. In the province of Samara, also, they elected a Socialist by an immense majority.

Under the circumstances it seems to be good advice which Count WITTE is said to be pressing on his imperial master, namely, that without waiting for the meeting of the Parliament he issue forthwith, on his own authority, a truly liberal Constitution. It is better to grant reforms voluntarily than to have them wrung from you.

# Morality and the Public Health.

In the public conveyances throughout the metropolis the health ordinances of the city require that there shall be populace applauded their performance. posted notices to the effect that spitting on the floor is unlawful and may b punished by fine or imprisonment, or both. Further, it has been or should be made a punishable offence to expectorate upon the sidewalks and streets, or upon floors of public buildings.

The wisdom of these ordinances is now generally recognized for the reason that through the press, from the platform and by the dissemination of printed lectures the people at large have been educated to an appreciation of the dangers of the spread of tuberculosis or consumption. They have learned that the germs of this disease are contained by millions in the matter ejected from the lungs and throat of a consumptive in a single expectoration, which, drying, become mixed with particles of dust, or float free in the atmosphere to be inhaled and thus made agents in the infection of others.

JOHN WESLEY, the founder of Methodism, sounded the keynote of modern hygiene when he paraphrased BACON's epigram as "Cleanliness is indeed next to godliness."

The surgical practice of to-day and the tremendous strides that have been made in this department of science are based upon this maxim. Listerism and asepsis are only new words for cleanliness.

The astonishingly low death rate following wounds received by Japanese soldiers in the late war with Russia is accounted for in great measure by their extreme personal cleanliness. The orders of the medical staff were as implicitly obeyed as those given by the officers of the line. Before going into the great battle of the Sea of Japan and before the engagements on land every Japanese sailor and soldier was made to wash his body thoroughly and to put

on clean underclothes. The moral life is just as essential to the protection of the body from disease as

is personal cleanliness. There are diseases of which the general public knows little or nothing which in their results are as disastrous to life, to health and to happiness as is consumption, which, on account of its destrucand have justified the request which he | tiveness, has been justly named "the

> Should they not be taught to realize the gravity of these constantly increasing dangers which threaten our modern social organization?

Plain speech is sometimes necessary Can one doubt for a moment that if and Ignatieff, who are believed to have per cent. of all cases of locomotor ataxia and most of the paralytic attacks, that 80 per cent. of all the deaths from inflammatory diseases peculiar to women, at least 50 per cent. of all the operations known in gynecology, as well as 30 per cent. of all the blindness in infancy and childhood, were due to these diseases, transmitted by men as a result of immoral sexual association, can one believe

English, Dutch and American bank- in mind the public would not take steps to lessen the possibilities of these in-

fections? There is in New York city an organization known as the Society of Sanitary and Moral Prophylaxis, which has undertaken the delicate and difficult task of enlightening the public upon this important subject. It is entitled to the moral support of all persons who have at heart the welfare of mankind.

### From a Chicago Youngster.

Circulago is suffering from her new post office, situated in the Federal Building that was begun in 1897. The structure is "a dream of architectural beauty." but the mail is sorted in rooms "dark and congested" and is delayed frequently from twelve to twenty-four hours, the clerks must work overtime, and the employees and business community long for the old quarters on the lake front, which were not particularly handsome but were well adapted for the use to which they were put. To return to the old quarters is out of the question and therefore Chicago wants more money for clerks and improvements absolutely essential if the business is to be carried on as it should be. In support of these deobtain a large amount of money within mands the Hon. CHARLES McGAVIN, who a month she would be unable to pay the got into Congress most unexpectedly in interest on her outstanding debt, or, in 1904, addressed the House on April 6. other words, would be driven into A plain, businesslike appeal he made, setting forth in detail the needs of his city. Attempting to place the responsibility for the existing conditions he said:

" The question has been asked numerous times as to who is responsible for the conditions which prevail in Chicago, and it is usually sought to shoulder a great deal of the responsibility upon the architect and the contractors. They may be in a measure responsible, but there are also other causes. The present post office in Chicago, having been begun in 1897, following the panic of the immediate preceding years, it was impossible for the Treasury Department or the contractors to anticipate the great prosperity that was to come so soon to this country. It was just as impossible for them to foresee the enormous increase in the post office business of Chicago as it was for you and I. Mr Chairman, to even harbor a thought that out of the black night of business chaos and disaster should rish the sun of prosperity, more radiant in her beauty, more magnificent in her splendor and more constant in her devotion than she had cheek of this blushing young republic."

The Republican Representatives assembled in the Congress of this blushing young republic applauded Mr. McGAVIN. The Democratic Representatives did not. Mr. McGavin has reached the age of 32. His district is normally Democratic by 8,000, yet he carried it by 7,000 plurality. His oratorical ability is as yet unknown to the nation at large. Perhaps he will not be returned to the Sixtieth Congress. but a man who can find such rhetorical inspiration in the cramped and unsatisfactory quarters of his post office certainly deserves reelection.

## Exit the Muck Rakers.

On Saturday the President is to pronounce the formal address at the grave of the Man With the Muck Rake. These gentlemen who have occupied so much of the attention of the people have had their day. They have immolated themselves on the altar of their own activities. It was a great day while it lasted, but it became too hot. The Muck Rakers worked merrily for a time in their own bright sunshine, and an unthinking Now there are few to do them reverence. They themselves are to be shovelled out with the aid of the vigorous Executive elbow.

These rather too strenuous reformers thought they saw the wicked flourishing like green bay trees, saw the national Capitol as a whited sepulchre full of all uncleanness, and could discover no good in anything or anybody. 'Tis a wicked world no doubt, and the times are perhaps a little out of joint; but the Muck Rakers have failed to show that the best way to cure a patient is to tell him how frightfully ill he is. So they pass. The funeral will be largely attended, but few will weep.

For almost a third of a century FRANK P. Church was a leading editorial writer in the service of this newspaper. The late CHARLES A. DANA had been in control of THE SCN for only about five years when Mr. Church began to contribute to the columns of this page. How well he served the readers of THE SUN during that long period of professional activity, with what truth of perception, vigor and originality of thought and excellence of literary art he did his share of the work that is merged in anonymity once every twenty-four hours, those few can understand who are able to distinguish the individual features that make the composite. At this time, with the sense of personal loss strong upon us, we know of no better or briefer way to make the friends of THE SUN feel that they too have lost a friend than to violate custom by indicating him as the author of the beautiful and often republished editorial article affirming the existence of SANTA CLAUS, in reply to the question of a little girl. These were his concluding lines:

"You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah. VIRGINIA, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

" No SANTA CLAUS? Thank God! he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, VIR-GINIA, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

In the modernization of China the development of the railroads of the ancient empire is an important factor. A law recently enacted by the Chinese Government calls for the taking up by purchase and condemnation of all railroads in the country now under the control of foreign capitalists and forbids the granting of further railroad concessions to foreign promoters. China means to run her own railroads and thus open up that vast mysterious "interior" to

he commerce of the world. As a preliminary to the process of Government acquisition two Chinese commissioners, Tung Chao Hu and Hu Tsing, are now in this country to study our systems of railroad construction and management. Mr. Tsing is president of the Szechuen meeting of the Imperial Duma. French, for a moment that with this knowledge | University, a technical college, and is super-

visor of the south China railroads. Mr. Hu is a recent graduate of Cornell University. He is chief engineer of the Hankow and Szechuen railroad, and, according to the Cornell Sun, his book on railroading is the first of the kind ever published in the Chi-

nese language. The admirable picture of the "Observatory" on Mount Vesuvius which our esteemed neighbor the Tribune printed yesterday loses somewhat in value from the fact that it is not the Observatory, but only the discarded lunch counter establishment at the lower Funicular station.

JADAM BEDE was jesting with a sacred ubject when he urged the division of Texas into four States. Has he so soon forgotten the oration of Mr. BAILEY, concluding: Mr. President, if I might be permitted to borrow the apostrophe to liberty and union pronounced by a distinguished Senator, I would say of Texas: She is one and inseparable, now and forever.

Anti-dynastic uprisings in China are much more frequent but probably no more real than peach crop failures in Delaware. The movement most recently reported from the province of Hopan can't be very serious, with the peasants fleeing to the Government strongholds so that they won't beforced to join the revolutionary ranks.

MARK TWAIN'S book which he sent to MAXIM GORKY, and which the Russian Government mutilated before delivery for fear that it contained revolutionary sentiments, must have been "Tom Sawyer," in which the King and Duke get so uncomfortably royal on the raft that Tom and the runaway colored gentleman maroon them and steal down the Mississippi without them.

When ARTHUR NIKISCH demands \$50,000 for his services as conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra for one year he shows a complete understanding of musical conditions in this country to-day. They have changed since he was here. Conductors, with or without a baton, did not then receive \$20,000 for a season's work. They were content with half as much. So long as that sum has been promised to one foreign conductor, Herr Nikisch has not overrated his value in the least. His demand has, at all events, the justification of his high place among European musicians and the great demand for his services abroad.

We distinctly affirm the right of workingmen to combine for mutual well being. At the same time we protest against all interference with the right which every man has to work when, where and for whom he pleases.—New York East Meth-odist Conference.

Capital as well as organized labor indorses the first proposition, but whenever organized labor lines up against the open shop it disputes the second. In fact, it i cardinal principle of unionism that free labor is prejudicial to its interests. The success of that principle would mean socialism in the end.

Neither FOLE nor JEROME would be where they are now if it had not been for what the President calls the muck rake.—Norman Hapgood.

Both the gentlemen named were the architects of their own political fortunes, and they owe nothing to the professional muck rakers whom Mr. HAPGOOD calls we journalists."

# TRUE AMERICANS.

Legal Citizenship Alone Does Not Confer the Title.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: C. M. Mille needs to be reminded that it is not necessary to be born in this country in order to be an American some of the greatest Americans were foreigner by birth. How would the Federal army hav fared during the civil war without its 200,000 for-eign born troops? How would the ships of the North have fared without the Monitor, the work of that celebrated American, but Swede by birth

John Ericsson?

o be American a man must be imbued with the spirit of Americanism. There are many men who were born on the soil and are not Americans. American by choice and adoption can be a better American than one who is so by accident An American is one whose heart beats true to

ALBANY, April 10. GEORGE FENTRICK. cans like the Anglo-Saxon race or what race are they like? I have lived in the States twenty two years, and the more I study Americans the more satisfied I am that they are as different from the

English as a Chinaman is from a Japanese. I

don't mean in speech or knowledge, but I mean in Personally, my own opinion is that Americans are more like Hebrews or French than any other nationality. They are altogether too businessiike o be like the English, and they are too quick to be like the slow Germans. I am speaking of course of the real Americans who can claim that their an estors were here a hundred years ago. Anybody under that is merely a quasi-American, and is really still a foreigner, although he is in the eye of the law BROOKLYN, April 9.

### FROM BATHHOUSE JOHN. The Latest Production of His Muse Pub. lished at His Request.

CITY OF CHICAGO COUNCIL CHAMBER

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I take pleasure n sending you my latest poem, entitled "Holding fands in the Moonlight," which was printed for Thanking you for past favors in giving editoria otice to my lyrics, and trusting that this one may JOHN J. COUGHLIN

Alderman First Ward. HOLDING HANDS IN THE MOONLIGHT From the Chicago Record-Herald. held her hand that summer eve-the silvery moor

Her soft black eyes gazed into mine and seemed to say "You're right, all right." down the lane we slowly strolled-ah, 'twas an When Gwendolyn and I held hands while walking

in the pale moonlight. en should I live a thousand years I'll ne'er forget her optics bright; Nor the pressure of her little hand, it was so soft

Her beauteous charms I see again as if 'twere only vesternight; There's nothing half so sweet in life as "spooning" in the pale moonlight.

Since then I've held some pretty hands that helped to make my pocket light:

broke me many a night. But my advice to all young men is play them to your bosom tight, And never sit between two gents unless you know that both are right.

"I am far from pleased with my latest effusion," said the Alderman, "but the bunch at Hink's place said it would be a hit, so I give it to the public with this apology. If it hadn't been raining I could have put over a peach, for I'm right at home in the 'googly' vein. Another thing, a fellow can't pack trunk and write poetry at the same time. I leav orado Springs Monday evening, and I was packing up while trying to write. When you write poetry you've got to put your whole mind on your work. Any poet will tell you that. You can't have somebody asking if you can shut the lid of this trunk or giving orders where to put her hate don't think a poet ought to pack trunks any

# What Fashion Reporting Should Be.

From the Sartorial Art Journal. Ease and luxury are good things, a lofty self-ufficiency is undoubtedly comfortable, a conservatism that develops as age creeps on and the blood grows colder and crawls more slowly through the veins may seem the accumulation of knowledge and the acme of wisdom when the pockets are full; but successful fashion reporting now demands incessant labor and untiring care, unselfishness in the production of the very best that the culti-vated mind, trained hand and educated experience can give, and a radicalism that at once seizes upo every change that is a step in advance, and leaps from the beaten track into new roads, or blazes its way through richer growths.

### OUR PHILIPPINE TRADE.

WASHINGTON, April 11.-In all of the statistics of our oversea trade nothing is more evident than the fact that something is wrong in our commercial relations with the Philippine Islands. Inasmuch as it is probable that there will again be an appropriation for special trade agents, attention is called to the desirability of despatching one of the most competent of these gentlemen to Manila and thereabouts to see why the little brown brother buys so much from other people and so little from those who are responsible for his political, physical

and moral welfare. The record of our sales to the Philippine Islands for the last four years stands as follows:

5,789,660 This is a most unsatisfactory showing in total amount and quite discouraging in relative increase. Meanwhile the mer-

1902...

chants of the islands have been buying in other markets on the following scale: 1908...... 29,974,284 24,478,911 .Not yet received

If there were any way of distinguishing the imports from the United States it would probably be found that a large share of those wares is taken by the Americans resident in the islands, while the heathen in his blindness is content to feed and clothe himself from the products of alien markets. Another striking feature is the fact that the total volume of trade does not increase and multiply as it ought. There is even a suspicion of stagnation about it. Our 1,000,000 of impecunious people in Porto Rico bought from us during 1905 alone only a little less than we sold to the 7,500,000 people in the Philippines during the last four years. The total imports of Porto Rico have increased from \$14,500,000, in 1902, to \$19,600,000, in 1905. But Porto Rico

has free trade with the home market. Something might be done to put a better front on the Philippine commercial exhibit by passing the Payne bill with an amendment which would read: "All articles of merchandise which are the product of the soil or industry of the Philippine Islands shall enter the United States free of duty." It has been shown beyond a reasonable doubt that such a course would work no injury whatever to any American interest. Aside from any possible moral considerations, this would seem to be good business. It is about time for signs of a dividend on our Philippine investment.

From the Wall Street Journal. "The present House of Representatives is composed of 252 Republicans and 138 Democrats, giving a Republican majority of 114. Mr. Griggs and Mr. Hearst, or Mr. Hearst and Mr. Griggs, in order to capture the next House, which will be the Sixtieth Congress, will be compelled to lasso fifty-eight seats and not lose a single one they now hold. Such a performance would be little short of a political revolution."—The Sun.

So it would, so it would. But—and this is a

point which THE SUN overlooks-political revolutions are by no means a rarity in this We have had a steady succession of them. It might be said they come with dmost the regularity of financial panics.

Take the political revolution that occurred Two years before the Democratic candidate for President had swept the counry, and the House of Representatives had elected 219 Democrats, 120 Republicans and Populists. Yet in 1894 there was a swing he other way that amounted to a complete revolution, and in the Congressional elections of that year the Republicans elected 244 members, against 110 Democrats and 7 unattached. other words, the Republicans gained 120 votes in the House of Representatives, or 62 more than would be needed by the Democrats this year to gain mastery of that body. If it be argued that this election took place in a year of profount financial prostration and in the middle of an unpopular Democratic Administration, this objection may est be met by going back to the general election President had been elected, and a House of Representatives composed of 152 Republicans. 138 Democrats and 3 unattached. Yet in 1882 there was a political revolution that resulted in the election of 194 Democratic me hers of the House of Representatives, with only 120 Republicans and 11 unattached. It is of interest to note that in this case the Democrats gained just 59 seats, or one more than would be necessary for them to gain this year in order to control the House of Representatives. There are not a few points of resemplance between the conditions in 1882 and those in 1906, both being years of great financial and industrial prosperity, both being years of Republican administration, and yet both years of sharp division in the Republican

It is indeed a great task that lies before the Democratic party to capture 58 additional seats in the House of Representatives. It is oo early as yet to say whether they can accomplish it or not; but it is wrong to take it for granted that the feat is impossible. There are many indications of political restlessness among the people. There are going to be some surprising results in the elections of November, and it is the part of wisdom for business interests to be prepared for them.

Cruelty and Wastefulness at a City Dump. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The pler at Seventy-ninth street and North River is occupied by the New York Contracting Company under lease. The company maintains a dump for ashes dirt. &c., and through an arrangement with the city the latter discharges the contents of ash carts into the company's scows. In order to do this the carts drive up a steep incline until the top platform reached, when they back up to a stringplece

and unload into the scow.

This piatform is a very filmsy affair, and the stringpiece is quite low-not high enough to resist the loaded cart. The result is that very frequently the cart backs over and down into the boat, about twenty feet below. In almost every case a horse is killed. This has occurred probably eight times in the last year, and in each case the city has been the sufferer, as well as the animal.

Nothing has been done thus far to prevent this butchery, and I often wonder how long it is going to continue without some action being taken by the responsible party or parties to stop it. It was only Saturday last a horse fell over, the

tating that it be shot; and about a month ago one fell over, and his leg being broken a doctor was called, and as he happened to have no pistol with him he used a long instrument in the shape of a needle for the purpose of stabbing it to death After pricking the horse for a couple of hours it finally died. About two months before that immediate death resulted from the breaking of a horse's neck from a fall, and so it has been go NEW YORK, April 11.

# The "New England Primer."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUN f March 25 appeared an article on the "New Engand Primer." I have a copy of that famous little cook. & reprint of the edition of 1777, dated 1844. In it the publisher prints a statement, taken from an almanac in the library of the Massachusett Historical Society, partly as follows:

"There is now in the press and will suddenly be

extant a second impression of the 'New England This is only a portion of the statement, and I give it to you as showing about the time when the orimer was issued, the almanac being dated 169

Wanted to Know. Pa-Well? Johnny-How do you ball the chauffeur out of a

The rain on just and unjust falls, You may depend on that, And equally does it pursue The paid and unpaid has.

CHESTERFIELD, N. J., April 7.

## IN THE ANTHRACITE REGION. The Outlook Described As Not Favorable

to Peace. SCRANTON, April 11.- The anthracite coal situation is probably in its most critical state at this writing. Mr. Mitchell has already ordered a strike, under the euphonious phrase "suspension of work," which of course causes a smile but deceives no one. The mines generally are idle, mining properties are guarded by armed men, workmen independent of union membership are set upon, beaten, threatened: thousands indirectly with or dependent upon the mining industry have been thrown out of work and business

of many kinds has suffered seriously. In short the strike is on and the only ques-

tion is as to its continuance.

Apparently the storm centre of the struggle York city; the parties thereto being Mr. Mitchell's committee and two committees of operators—one composed of Mr. Baer and his associates, the other of some fiftyseven independent operators, whose spokes-For a fortnight man just now is Mr. Cake. Mr. Baer's forces and Mr. Mitchell's have been engaged in discussions; and at last a shot has been fired by the independent operators, practically all of whom live in the anthracite regions close to their mines. Because they come in daily and nightly contact with actual existing conditions, these independent operators know the situation and its dangers far better than some of the other gentlemen whose business compels them to live in or near New York and Philadelphia. Mr. Cake, Mr. Ashley, John Markle and their associates know the sound of rifle shots, the roar of mobs, the flare of burning breakers; and they face the situation squarely. is no nonsense about their attitude and they mince no words when, in the signed report sent to New York on Tuesday, they declare that none of them has forgotten "the fearful events of 1902, when men who desired or were compelled by family necessity to go to work were wounded, maimed and even murdered.

It is generally believed, by the way, that during the strike of 1902 the astounding number of twenty-one murders were committed in the anthracite regions. These murdered men and lads were not members of Mr. Mitchell's band of philanthropists, but were individuals who claimed their right to earn a living under conditions of liberty mentioned as an inalienable right in the Declaration of Independence. They-poor fellows learned that the Government of Pennsylvania had no use for the Declaration of Independence. Twenty-one of them died, brutally murdered. Not a single murderer has

been brought to justice. That such conditions could exist, that such a benighted, lawless region could be found within five hours of New York, and within four hours of Independence Hall, is well nigh incredible; but it is true, and the independent operators, any rate, do not blink the facts, terrible as

In the statement which Mr. Cake carried to New York on Tuesday these operators continue thus:

And the United Mine Workers have already given ample warning that these acts of violence will so be repeated, or even exceeded, unless we surrender to their demands. Not only have they lain idle at our collieries before receiving any reply to our demands, but men attempting to work have already been actually wounded, and others, in many places, similar display of force. The firemen and men running the pumps that are necessary to prevent the flooding of mines are so frequently and persistently threatened that many of them say they must out work. If this be a fair sample of a republican form of government all good citizens may well pray for a despotism.

In view of these well known facts, we contend that it would be better that our mines shall lie idle for years than that we shall accede to the highwaymanlike demands of an organization that lacks either the wisdom or the ability to restrain ita members from acts of violence that would disgrace ine much despised Russia.

These are not idle words from irresponsible sensation mongers, but the deliberate opinion of astute business men, accustomed to handle commercial and financial affairs of magnitude. That is what makes the statement so im-

Now, nobody who has actual knowledge of existing conditions believes that the opera-tors want a long strike. Some of them, possibly, would not be sorry to see the present "suspension of work" continue until they can market a large part of the enormous means just so many millions of dollars tied mine operator's business is to mine coal and to sell it at as high a price as possible without disturbing conditions of trade—that is, without forcing the public to pay such excessive rates as would compel substitution of other fuel or Government retaliation in some form. On the other hand, Mr. Mitchell and his associates certainly do not want to maintain a long strike, if it can be avoided. This is especially true at present, when everything is against them. The chances are, however, that the committees of operators and Mr. Mitchell's committee would find it extremely difficult to stop the strike which is w on. If the operators hold out inflexibly for the open shop Mr. Mitchell may possibly accede to the condition; but those up here in the anthracite region are far from sanguine that the rank and file of the United Mine Workers will give in. It is not in a railroad president's office in New York that the matwill be settled. It is right here, in a hundred towns and mining patches, that final decision will be made by nearly 100,000 men and boys, a large number of whom would rather fight than work any day. known is the temper of the men that many observers incline to the opinion that Mr Mitchell, being in a desperate situationso far as retaining his leadership is concerned-would not dare to give in to the open

shop demand. Furthermore, the unexpected is always to he looked for at such a time as the pre-By attacking and killing two or three independent workers half a dozen drunken miners anywhere in the region-may bring on a riot of such proportions as to compel Governor Pennypacker to throw troops into the field. After that guerrilla warfare would last for weeks and months, unless history for once

failed to repeat itself. Taken altogether, the anthracite situation is more critical than at any previous time since the trouble began. To those here the region the outlook is not favorable for

## Former Rules of the House. From the Washington Post. Representative J. Warren Keifer of Ohlo was

peace.

Speaker of the House a quarter of a century ago, n the days of Garfield, when the problems growing out of the civil war were still in the fore. For a few minutes yesterday he was prevailed u tell of the rules of the House when he presided "We never knew a leader on either side of the

House when I was Speaker," said Mr. Keifer a bill was reported out there was a man in charge of it, of course, but there was no such man to speak for either Democrats or Republicans as we now. Men were not recognized by previous ar-rangement. As they arose in their seats they were recognized, the only discrimination being that we tried to even the time between the opposing sides. There were no special rules brought in to put through legislation, and they were unknown. There was greater independence among the dividual members of the House than nov. However, I do not criticise the present rules of the House. There has always been talk against the tyranny of the Speaker. The House is larger now than it was when I was Speaker, and such rules may be necessary now to govern the House prop

Vesuvius. I get a sight of comfort now. To Fate's mishaps I meekly bow And, thankful, say: "Well, anyhow,

Bound homeward when the hours are wee, If pavements rise to bump the knee I don't complain, but mutter: "Gee, It ain't Vesuvius!

When wife starts in to clean our place And soot and ashes grime my face, I meditate what saving grace She ain't Vesuvius.

Then if the boss should blow me up I ponder when at eve I sup How overflowing is my cup-He ain't Vesuvius.

MCLANDBURGE WILSON

## MAGYAR AND MOSLEM. Rehabilitation of the Austro-Hungarias

Empire in Its Broader Bearing. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN Sir! The reconciliation, or perhaps it would be more correct to call it the arrangement, that has just been arrived at between the dominant Magyar faction in Hungary and the Emperor King, Francis Joseph, was about the only solution of the crisis that could restore Aus tria-Hungary to its place among the Euro pean Powers. What brought the Magyate to their senses has not been made publication it is hardly open to doubt that it was the necessity of the two countries standing to gether if they were not to be overwhelmed by the Pan-Germanic flood and to lose all the advantages that unity holds out to them

in the coming changes in the Balkan peninsula and perhaps at Constantinople The process by which the internal changes demanded by the political and economic conditions in Austria-Hungary are to be conditions in Austria-Hungary brought about seems fair and co of the rights of all the races and n comprised in the populations o halves of the empire, and it needs carried out in good faith by all give Austria her proper weight in pean balance of power. For n past she has been a negligible que though admitted on a seemingly ing to all deliberations of an in character, has only served to add tence of whatever particular Pow found expedient or forcibly need her to support for the time being.

her to support for the time bei A permanent reconciliation the the benefit of all the elements in is dictated as much by the ext tions as by the internal. A c doubtedly at hand in the affail eastern Europe that would turn vantage of Austria-Hungary if affairs had continued as they hate. The efforts recently made tan to bring about better relati-himself and Bulgaria and the Macedonia and Albania show himself and Bulgaria and the Macedonia and Albania show hand that at Constantinople evileved to be impending that Sultan's power, and on the off troubles in the two western pro European domain afford the Aust ment the pretext, if it desires to fit, to occupy what is known a of Novibazar, the strip of Turk about twenty miles wide and that separates Montanegro from that separates Montenegro Since 1878 this territory Since 1878 this territory has been in the joint military occupation of Austria and Turkey, the three principal strategic points on the road that runs down the centre of it from Bosnia into Albania and Macedonia having garrisons of equal numbers of Austrian and Turkish troops. They are Taschildia or Plevlie, Priepolie and Bielopolie, and control the crossroads between Servia and Montanegro.

Montenegro.

The intention to extend the Aust pation from these three points of Novibazar, including the name, and to push on to the head of the railway from Saic spoken of in despatches a few Should this be the meaning of the preparations in Dalmatia, Bosnia zern Hungary about which the Austhas been ordered to keep silend scribed in THE-SUN the other day crisis of Ottoman rule in that part is close at hand. It was probably dege of what is impending there trouble he has on his hands with the Experising Government that stirred. Egyptian Government that stirred the S to seek a reconciliation with Bulgaria, the probability that he is, as usual, too hen he essays a right stroke of police New York, April 8.

# Is the Government a Rebate Taker!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Con sidering the present great agitation on the Hepburn rate bill, perhaps you can inform me how the United States Government, one of the largest receivers of rebates in the country, econclles itself to this state of things: If a shipper or consignee receives a rebate

n any form, he is guilty of a felony and can be punished. When the United States Government has shipment of armor plate from Bethlehem, Pa., or guns or gun carriages from Sandy Hook, N. J., destined to San Francisco, Cal, or Astoria, Ore., it solicits bids from the

various railroads for the transportation of same to destination. The tariff rate on guns and gun carriage. carloads, for instance from Chicago, Ill., to Astoria, Ore., is \$2.25 per 100 pounds: the proportion accruing to roads for haul, Chicago St. Paul or Minnesota Transfer, Mint is 33 cents; the established land grant allows the Government is 21.08 per cent., which makes a net rate of 26 cents per hundred

the Government during the past year at from 6% to 8% cents per hundred pounds, a bid by various roads. Therefore, if it is such an outrageous crime for the individual to accept a out rate, why is it not equally vicious for the Govern-ment to accept bids of from 634 to 834 cents

pounds which the roads should receive.

Hundreds of tons have been shipped by

### per hundred pounds, when they know the net tariff rate is 26 cents? EQUALITY NEW YORK, April 11. . Another View of the Subsidy Question

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Str. thing as killing the goose for the sake of t golden egg, and to deliberately make a target Great Britain, America's best customer, is a si toward antagonism. The United States tar meets with my unbounded approval, notwithstanding it practically shuts the door to most of Great Britain's products. On the other hand, Great Britain takes nearly 60 per cent. of America's exports benefits every class in America is worthy of some consideration, and undoubtedly it is logical that the man who comes to your door and burs you products should have a voice in the matter of de livery. Consequently, if America desires to the good will of Great Britain as a customer, let be

Aside from this fact it is manifestly unjust that the nation should bear the burden of expense toward helping to build or subsidize a mercanile navy, which undoubtedly would enrich the pockets of a few magnates interested.

By all means build up American shipping, but do it alone, unaided, fairly and squarely. Dos resort to artificial means in seeking financial aid from the Government. If, however, the substability becomes law, which is rather improbable. consequences will naturally follow Britain will retaliate and impose such duties American products as to exclude them from h markets, by which the whole nation v twofold injury-loss of a customer and taxatist for boats that might be laid up for want of traffic. WHEELING, W. Va., April 9.

### Eat the Nutritions Snail From the Lancet

A dish of snalls is hardly ever seen in this coul ry, although in Spain and in France this mollus is a fairly common article of food amone while it is held in great esteem by condiments. The suggestion that the snall should form a cheap article of food in this con been revived, and there is nothing to be said against the proposal from a dietetic point properly cooked the snall is both n tasty. Doubtless the snall could be s the oyster when it was found that it had gained

considerable patronage. The snall has indeed been called the though we do not remember t eaten raw. We know, however, t an excellent fish sauce and may be few snails in a steak and kidney p nerease the tastiness of this popula nust be exercised in the choice of food purposes, as it is well known on polsonous plants, and it is the cus to allow a few days to elapse after the taken from their feeding ground in or

polsonous matters may be eliminated Most of the snalls in France used f oses are collected from the vineyards Champagne and Lorraine, which, we afford a perfectly clean feeding gr snall, considering the care which is tal the vines from disease. According very nearly 90 per cent. of the solid snall is proteid matter available dir pairing the tissues of the body. Besid are about 6 per cent. of fat and 4 per mare eral matter, including phosphate with the oyster, this would show that contains about 100 per cent. more nu

### stances. Famine Prices for Japanese Widows. From the Springfield Res

A Chinese newspaper, the Chang I the following: "A special correspondentien writes that about the beginning of a Japanese imported some 3,000 Japa whom he offered for sale, either as vants or as secondary wives, at 60 (1% pounds avoirdupois). Photogra shown to intending buyers, who selection, and the woman is weighed and calculated. There is no condition atta-that she must be allowed to return home Spice Actie.